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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. New claim 3 is added. Claims 1-3 are pending.

Applicants request that the amendments filed on August 2, 2005 and September 22, 2005 not be entered upon filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on November 21, 2005 with Applicant's representative, James Larson. During the interview, proposed claim amendments were discussed to distinguish over US 5,554,914 to Miyazawa. No agreement was reached concerning allowable claims.

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 7, lines 5-8 and page 11, lines 14-16. Claim 3 is supported by the original disclosure, for example page 20, lines 24-25 and Figure 9.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazawa (US 5,554,914). Applicants respectfully traverse.

With respect to claim 1, Miyazawa does not disclose a steering apparatus of a motor vehicle having a pair of steerable wheels that are manually steerable by a driver, including first and second motors each generating a steering assisting force to be applied to a steering system of the motor vehicle that is connected to the steerable wheels to assist the driver's manual steering effort in steering the steerable wheels.

Miyazawa discloses a micro robot with drive wheels 36, 38 driven by motors 64, 66 (Figures 3 and 8). The wheels themselves are not steerable, nor are they manually steerable by a driver. In addition, the motors 64, 66 do not generate a steering assisting force to be applied to a steering system of the vehicle that is connected to the steerable wheels to assist a driver's manual steering effort in steering the steerable wheels.

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Miyazawa.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and is patentable along with claim 2.

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In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612) 455-3802.

Respectfully Submitted,

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